

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, PINS, UR, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PROTEST BY US SCIENTISTS ATTENDING
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
IN TBILISI (SEPTEMBER 3-8)

MEMBER OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE INFORMED DEPARTMENT TODAY OF
CONCERN FELT BY US AND OTHER WESTERN DELEGATES OVER "CON-
TINUING PROBLEM OF PARTICIPATION" IN CONFERENCE ON ARTIFI-
CIAL INTELLIGENCE BY INTERESTED DISSIDENT SOVIET SCIENTISTS
AND INDICATED THAT PLANS FOR REGISTERING OF PROTEST TO
SOVIET GOVERNMENT OVER THIS MATTER ARE BEING MADE. DISSI-
DENT SCIENTIST ALEXANDER LERNER OF MOSCOW WAS INVITED TO
PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE, ACCEPTED INVITATION TO DO SO,
AND HAS BEEN REPORTED TO BE UNDER KGB PRESSURE NOT TO TAKE
PART. US CONFERENCE DELEGATES WILL ATTEMPT TO SEE LERNER
IN MOSCOW ON WAY TO TBILISI TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER HE WILL BE
ABLE TO PARTICIPATE. IF THEY LEARN THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT
PREVENTING HIM AND/OR OTHER DISSIDENTS (KNOWN BY WESTERN
GROUP TO BE INTERESTED IN CONFERENCE SUBJECT AND PROCEED-
INGS) FROM TAKING PART, SOURCE FEELS SURE SOME KIND OF PRO-
TEST WILL BE REGISTERED BY MAJORITY OF WESTERN CONFEREES AT
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SOME TIME DURING CONFERENCE. SOURCE ESTIMATES THAT APPROX-

IMATELY 100 US SCIENTISTS WILL BE ATTENDING CONFERENCE AND
FEELS THAT MAJORITY OF THEM WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN PRO-
TEST. CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY AN INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL
SOCIETY CALLED "INTERNATIONAL JOINT CONFERENCE ON ARTIFI-
CIAL INTELLIGENCE" AND IS CHAIRED THIS YEAR BY US
PROFESSOR PATRICK WINSTON OF MIT. USG HAS NO DIRECT IN-
VOLVEMENT IN CONFERENCE BUT SOME US DELEGATES ARE TRAVEL-
LING ON DOD OR NSF TRAVEL GRANTS. INGERSOLL

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